

March 8th, 2026
Third Sunday of the Great Lent or
Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

SUNDAY, 3/8 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for special intention
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for all parishioners

MONDAY, 3/9 **No** Service

TUESDAY, 3/10 **No** Service

WEDNESDAY, 3/11 **6:15 pm** Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts

THURSDAY, 3/12 **No** Service

FRIDAY, 3/13 **7:15 am** Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts and Sorokousty

SATURDAY, 3/14 **5:00 pm** Divine Liturgy for + Barbara Guerrucci

SUNDAY, 3/15 **9:00 am** Divine Liturgy (English) for all parishioners
 10:30 am Divine Liturgy (Ukrainian) for special intention

Announcements

1-Commemoration Of The Deceased: Sorokousty

On Fridays during the Great Fast (Lent), we pray for all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. If you would like to request that your departed loved ones be remembered by name during the services, please call to the church office.

2-Service Notice

Please note that Father Volodymyr will be away from the parish on Monday and Tuesday (March 9–10). Due to this, there will be no service on Monday.

3-Daylight Saving Time Change

Starting **March 14**, the Saturday Vigil Divine Liturgy will be at **5:00 PM** due to the time change. Thank you for adjusting your schedules accordingly!

Third Sunday of Great Lent – Veneration of the Holy Cross

At the midpoint of Great Lent, the Church brings forward the Holy Cross for veneration. Just as a traveler in the desert finds refreshment under the shade of a tree, the faithful are given the Cross as a source of strength and encouragement for the remainder of the Lenten journey.

The Cross stands at the center of our salvation. What once appeared to be a sign of suffering and defeat became, through Christ, the instrument of victory and life. By His sacrifice on the Cross, Christ conquered sin and death and opened for us the path to resurrection. For this reason, the Church places the Cross before us not only as a reminder of Christ’s suffering, but as a sign of hope and triumph.

In the middle of Lent, when the struggle of fasting and repentance can feel difficult, the Cross reminds us that every sacrifice offered for God bears fruit. Christ Himself said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” The Cross

*Upcoming Events
 in Parish & Eparchy*
Mar. 25th – Annunciation
March 29th – Palm Sunday
April 3rd – Good Friday

therefore becomes both a symbol of Christ’s love for us and a call to carry our own crosses with faith and patience.

When we venerate the Cross, we acknowledge that our strength comes not from ourselves, but from the Lord who suffered for us. The Cross becomes a source of spiritual renewal, encouraging us to continue our Lenten journey with courage and hope.

As we bow before the Holy Cross, may we remember that beyond the Cross stands the light of the Resurrection. Strengthened by this sign of victory, may we continue our path through Lent with faith, humility, and trust in God’s saving love.

Fastings, Prayer, and Almsgiving – The Three Pillars of the Spiritual Life

Throughout the centuries, the Church has taught that fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are the three pillars that support the spiritual life of a Christian. These practices are especially emphasized during Great Lent, when the faithful are called to deepen their relationship with God and grow in love toward others.

Prayer – Our Relationship with God

Prayer is the foundation of our spiritual life. Through prayer we enter into conversation with God, opening our hearts to His presence and guidance. Prayer helps us remember that we are not alone, that our lives are sustained by God’s grace. When we pray sincerely, our hearts are softened, our priorities are reordered, and we begin to see the world through the eyes of faith.

Fasting – Discipline of the Heart

Fasting teaches us self-control and freedom from attachments. By voluntarily limiting food and comforts, we learn that our true fulfillment does not come from material things, but from God. Fasting is not meant to punish the body, but to train the soul, helping us resist temptation and grow in spiritual strength.

Almsgiving – Love in Action

Almsgiving is the natural fruit of prayer and fasting. When we recognize God’s blessings in our lives, we are moved to share with those in need. Acts of charity—whether through financial help, service, or simple kindness—reflect Christ’s love in the world. Almsgiving reminds us that faith is not only personal, but also communal and compassionate.

A Balanced Spiritual Life

These three pillars support and strengthen one another. Prayer connects us with God, fasting purifies our hearts, and almsgiving opens us to love our neighbor. Together they lead us toward true repentance and spiritual renewal.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we practice these pillars with sincerity and humility, remembering that the goal is not simply discipline, but a deeper union with Christ and a more generous love for others.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

**Sunday collections for the weekend of 3/1/26, including envelope offerings - \$951,
 donations -\$457, candles -\$51
 Weekly budget: \$1250, Income \$1459**

Support Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church



**Protection of the Mother of God
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Byzantine Rite**

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Father Volodymyr Petrytsya
Fr. Deacon Michael Guerrucci

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Confession before or after Divine Liturgy.

Confession is recommended as a regular monthly practice. The graces received from confession are an excellent way to help us become closer to Jesus.

***THE CHURCH WAS A MOTHER TO YOU IN LIFE, PROVIDING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS;
PLEASE REMEMBE YOUR PARISH AND THE EPARCHY OF SAINT JOSAPHAT IN PARMA IN
YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.***